

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project: 81968: P1-02
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 April to 31 July 2013 - Q2 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP, UNICEF

Sector: Governance and Human Rights

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Interior, Committee Number 80 leads., Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, High Committee of Women in KRG. Child Welfare Commission, Family Protection Directorates, Judiciary and Civil Society.

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| Title | Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security for Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence | | | | |
| Geographic Location | Nationwide - Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah | | | | |
| Project Cost | USD 3,967,880 – UNDP: 2,467,880 UNICEF: 1,500,000 (\$ 703,722 only received) | | | | |
| Duration | 36 Months | | | | |
| Approval Date (SC) | 18.01.2012 | Starting Date | 12.03.2012 | Completion Date | 12.03.2015 |
| Project Description | UNDP in conjunction with Iraqi stakeholders finalised the development of the Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security Programme to support the Government of Iraq’s efforts in creating a strategy to ensure that victims of domestic and gender based violence are offered refuge, reintegration and access to justice. Over the past two years UNDP has utilised core funds to increase understanding of the issues and implement limited activities to vulnerable women and children. This project will build on these initial activities and provide comprehensive technical and advisory support combined with extensive capacity development interventions for known key stakeholders, enhance capacity of formal and informal institutions to establish family protection systems and facilitate law enforcement and access to justice for the victims of violence. The project additionally looks towards mechanisms to empower victims, target groups and communities and establish mechanisms that assist reintegration back into their communities. This project will cooperate and build synergy with other UN Country Team agencies based on their respective mandates. | | | | |

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Relevant NDP Goal(s):

9.1.4 Reform the economic and legal institutions to ensure equality in rights and opportunities for men and women (family laws, protection from violence, property ownership, employment, political rights and inheritance).

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

Priority Area 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.

Outcome 1.3: Iraq has an improved legal and operational Rule of Law framework for administration and access to justice.

Priority Area 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

Outcome 5.1: The Iraqi state has improved knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the roles and rights of women, youth and children in line with international conventions, the Iraqi Constitution and legislation.

Outcome 5.5: The Iraqi state has institutionalized preventive and protective mechanisms to combat gender-based violence.

UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2:

Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

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| Outputs | <p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors.</p> <p>Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.</p> |
| Activities | <p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors.</p> <p>1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement.</p> <p>1.1.1 Specific advice and training for the core working group on how to address violence against women and children and victims of trafficking provided.</p> <p>1.1.2 Support the promotion and activities of committee 80 to ensure their impact on the legislative reform in moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.1.3 Support the core working group in the development of action plans and annual work and budget plans to further strategy on family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.1.4 Support awareness raising activities to promote the KRG strategy and to ensure their impact and moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>2.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional government are supported with the referral mechanism for the new Family Protection Directorates, police support units and CSOs .</p> <p>2.1.1 Targeted training for Police from the Central Government and the Kurdistan Region. Training focuses on SOPs on how to run Family Protection Units (including study tours).</p> <p>2.1.2 Empowerment of female police officers working in the newly established Directorates through targeted training courses and increased awareness.</p> <p>2.1.3 Support the establishment of victim support units in police stations (Baghdad) to act as referral centres for the established Family Protection Directorates.</p> <p>2.1.4 Develop/adapt training material on combating violence against women and children for police officers and social workers working in Directorates to ensure continuous training and sustainability.</p> <p>2.1.5 Linkages developed between the Directorates and the criminal courts in their areas to ensure chain of evidence, i.e. testimony, preservation of physical evidence, necessary for successful prosecution - work with Criminal Court and the Social Research Department staff for capacity building in following up and handling cases.</p> <p>2.1.6 Develop advocacy strategy highlighting the role of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>2.1.7 Assess performance and impact of Directorates.</p> <p>2.1.8 Organize multi-stakeholder workshops to disseminate lessons.</p> <p>2.1.9 Support the development of an effective data base for newly established Directorates (design and training).</p> |

2.2 Relevant service providers have an enhanced capacity to deal with GBV cases.

2.2.1 Training for police, in particular female police officers, in interview techniques, investigations, forensics, chain of evidence, and how specifically to process cases of violence against women and children.

2.2.2 Trainings and advocacy for Ministry staff, Parliamentary staff, judges, lawyers and judicial staff on gender sensitive/human rights based approach methodology to addressing violence against women and children in relation to the workings of the Family Protection Directorates.

2.2.3 Organize awareness raising workshops on combating violence against women and children and the link with human rights and the rule of law. Encourage target groups to participate in policy reviews and improved legislative frameworks.

2.2.4 Trainings for health care workers, i.e. medical staff, counsellors, psychologists, on dealing with victims of violence. This includes developing of referrals protocols that will support the implementation of the CVAW programme and link up with the Directorates.

2.2.7 Organize trainings on the revised JTI and Police Academy curricula and train ToTs in the respective rule of law institutions on GBV and role of FPDs.

2.3 NGOs working on providing legal aid have an enhanced capacity on family protection and violence prevention.

2.3.1 Initial mapping and capacity assessment of NGOs providing legal aid nationwide to victims of violence. This includes the Iraqi Bar Association.

2.3.2. Support establishment of an effective referral system linking NGOs with Directorates and prosecution services which includes provision of financial and logistical support to NGOs offering legal aid to victims of all forms of GBV.

2.4. Relevant NGOs have an enhanced capacity on child protection issues

Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.

3.1 Development of shelter policy to the development of shelter policy at central and KRG level supported, participation of civil society ensured.

3.1.1 Policy advice and technical support given on shelter policy in both Central Level and the Kurdistan Region and the development of plan of action.

3.1.2 Develop a policy framework based on a situational analysis to facilitate the reintegration of shelter clients back into the community.

3.2 Female shelters and safe houses supported through institutional strengthening and capacity development.

3.2.1 Mapping of NGOs providing shelter or refuges to victims of violence, including advocacy and workshops.

3.2.2 Support to existing NGO managed shelters for victims of violence including a national conference for lessons learned.

3.2.3 Capacity building provided to shelter staff on management, budgets, resource mobilization, etc.

3.2.4 Develop/adapt training material on working with victims of violence for shelter staff (also to GoI).

3.2.5 Specialized training provided to shelter staff on dealing with victims of violence.

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| | <p>3.3 NGOs offering shelter support to women strengthened to provide referral support.</p> <p>3.3.1 Provision of capacity building, financial and logistical support to NGOs providing support to women and women victim of violence that can act as referral centres.</p> <p>3.3.2 Develop linkages with on-going UNCT economic empowerment/private sector development programs.</p> |
| Procurement | Too early in the life cycle of the project. |

**Tranche funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund
UNDP**

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|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Funds Committed | USD \$911,925.9 | % of approved | 37.0% |
| Funds Disbursed | USD \$1,460,418.7 | % of approved | 59.2% |
| Forecast final date | 12 March 2015 | Delay (months) | 0 |

UNICEF

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|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Funds Committed | USD 134.882.28 | % of approved | 8.9% |
| Funds Disbursed | USD 190,218.66 | % of approved | 12.7% |
| Forecast final date | 12 March 2015 | Delay (months) | 0 |

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

% of planned

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| <p>Output 1 Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors</p> | <p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous follow up on the status of the Domestic Violence Bill at federal level. Consolidated comments submitted to the Committee of Experts on the draft Bill. - Finalizing the development of national data-base of GBV and DV within the Family Protection Units (FPU) and MoI at regional and federal level. - Follow up meetings with MOWA, MOLSA, COR, and PM Office on development of shelter policy at federal level. - Implementation of the MoU between Kurdistan Bar Association defining provision of the free legal aid services to the GBV and DV victims. | 65% |
| <p>Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> | <p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two trainings in investigation and forensic analysis for Federal and Regional level took place in Erbil from 16th - 27th of June, 2013 targeting 21 trainees (out of whom four are female) from FPU at federal level from 16 FPU in 15 governorates. A second training targeting 23 trainees (out of whom six are female police officers) from DCVAW in KRG at regional level took place from 30th June - 11th of July 2013, targeting police officers working at the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) in Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). - Organisation of two study tours for Iraq FPU staff to Family Protection Units in Jordan which were conducted in 26 to 28 April and 16 to 18 June 2013. <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous support to the MoLSA on the development of the regional and federal Child laws and Child Protection Policy is on going | UNDP 55% |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A total of a total of 514 children provided with legal assistance over the project life - An evaluation of Social Work Degree programme at Salahaddin University is on-going. - 47 incidents of grave violations of children's rights have been reported, out of which 19 were verified | |
| Output 3 National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors. | <p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of three legal aid helpdesks in Dahouk, Sulyimaniah, and Basra. - Continuous consultation and technical advisory support provided to MOLSA towards facilitating the adoption of shelter policy in KRG. - On-going consultation with MOWA to +++++organise a Roundtable on Shelter policy in Baghdad. | 45% |

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The summary below outlines the key achievements during the reporting period of time:

UNDP

UNDP- Iraq, as part of its larger programme addressing access to justice for women and survivors of family violence, undertook a number of consultations with representatives of other UN agencies, relevant government and non-government partners to seek a solution to the inadequate and limited shelter resources currently available. The outcome of these discussions was the inclusion of a shelter program component in our access to justice program, the Family Support, Justice and Security project (FSJS). The goal of this component is to support both the development of policy and legal frameworks whilst also providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity of shelter employees. In order to ensure sustainability and avoid overlap, UNDP is coordinating with institutes and organizations concerned with the protection and the empowerment of women.

While this process went well in the KRG, discussions in federal government will take longer, but agreement has been reached on holding a focused round table in the end of October 2013, and pre discussions with SMOWA and MOLSA have been conducted towards the organisation of the roundtable on Shelter, with the objective to endorse guidelines for a shelter policy.

As the main core of Family Support Justice and Security Project under Rule of Law, Human Rights and Access to Justice Programme is the aim to protect victims of domestic violence and strengthen the rule of law UNDP is working within this framework to support to the development of FPU at the Federal level and the Directorate of Combating Violence against Women in KRG at regional level. To address this, a series of training courses will be provided by UNDP with support of Danish Police trainers who have extensive training experience and knowledge with regards to investigation, forensic, training methods and management.

These trainings are planned according to needs assessment for both FPU and DCVAW because there are significant shortcomings in the investigative capacity of the FPU and DCVAW police services, including the basic skills of interrogation, preservation and management crime scene, general evidence gathering and forensic analyses. This has implications for gender-based violence crimes, as it does for all criminal investigations. These trainings are also particularly relevant as both these mechanisms are responsible for all investigation of gender-based violence and domestic violence crimes which were previously the responsibility of the regular police.

Two trainings in investigation and forensic analysis for Federal and Regional level took place in Erbil from 16th - 27th of June 2013 for 21 trainees (4 female and 17 male) of FPU at federal level from 16 FPU in 15 governorates,

and the second training for 23 trainees (six female police officers, 17 male police officers) from DCVAW in KRG at regional level from 30th June - 11th of July 2013 to police officers working at the directorate of combating violence against women (DCVAW) in Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). This training will enhance the technical capacity of FPU/DCVAW on investigate, process and assist in the prosecution of gender-based violence and domestic violence; build the public confidence and trust in the ability of the FPU and DCVAW staff to appropriately address GBV and DV.

Two study tours have been organised for the FPU staff in the center and Kurdistan Region to the Family Protection Unit in Jordan. The purpose of these visits is to provide opportunity to the Iraq FPU staff to familiarize themselves with the work on GBV and DV, the result of this mission will be the revision of the organisational structure of the FPU in Iraq.

UNDP during the reporting period of time started the implementation of the MoU with the Kurdistan Bar Association and, as a result, two legal aid help desks have been established in Dahouk and Sulaymaniyah, the legal aid helpdesks are located within the premises of the courts. For the first time at federal level, and under this project, UNDP established a legal aid helpdesk in Basra, to be managed by national NGO, and implemented in close coordination with the Bar Association in Basra. Having the three legal aid helpdesks located within the courts will contribute to the effectiveness of the provision of the services as well as strengthening the cooperation between the Justice institutions, Civil Society and Vulnerable groups.

UNICEF :

Child Law

UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in reviewing the federal Child Law. UNICEF's experts reviewed the Child Law according to international standards and norms, as well as existing child related national legislation. The review is finalised and is currently being translated into Arabic.

It is worth mentioning that there were several versions of the Child Law being drafted by different entities, creating some confusion. UNICEF has discussed this matter with the Legal Department of the Council of Ministers and the MoLSA, and therefore advocated their lead in merging other laws drafted by other entities, and in harmonizing other relevant laws (Judicial, Labour, Welfare, Education, etc) directly or indirectly related to child protection and child rights.

Child Protection Policy

Child Protection Policy should be developed in accordance with the national Child Law. However, this reasoning was not accepted by the Minister of MoLSA who planned finalising the policy by the end of 2012 as there was no Child Law in Iraq. UNICEF has tried to accommodate the government's expectations by conducting a strategic workshop, facilitated by an experienced and qualified international expert, with the objective of developing a road map for child protection policy. It has been a challenge to identify relevant experts from the field who are subsequently approved of by MoLSA. This has led to a significant delay in the process. UNICEF has been able to find other Arabic speaking international experts on policy development and an initial meeting has taken place with MoLSA representatives. It's important to note that the Government of Iraq's understanding of the need for a child protection systems approach is more limited, and has resulted in a focus on issues/areas, rather than a systematic, integrated systems approach. UNICEF is working with international experts to increase government capacity in this and will support the foundation of an agenda based on protection, and appropriate responses to child vulnerabilities. Building capacity of MoLSA is critical in order for it and the CWC to lead the process of developing a child rights-based child protection policy.

Legal Assistance

In the Kurdistan region, UNICEF's implementing partners, consisting of Heartland Alliance, Public Aid Organization and STEP, have been providing legal assistance to a total of 514 children since 2012. A total of 16 cases, related to Gender Based Violence have been provided with legal assistance; 2 cases in Dohuk, 6 in Erbil and 8 in Sulaymaniya. In this quarter, 95 children (5 girls and 90 boys) have benefited from legal assistance. Trained police officers (30) continued to coordinate with lawyers and social workers to provide support to juveniles, and to prevent them from going to a formal judicial system. During this quarter, charges of a total of 37 cases (one girl and 36 boys) have been dropped by police stations, and alternatives to detention were identified. UNICEF has entered a

new programme cooperation agreement with War Child to expand its legal assistance in Basra, Thi Qar and Missan.

A case study on UNICEF's legal assistance

A young girl of 17 years had lost her mother at the age of 11, after which her father remarried. Her stepmother mistreated her very badly, took her out of school and prostituted her at the age of 12. Her stepmother would bring customers home to the girl. She fell in love with a young man who visited her regularly for sex, not knowing that he was also a pimp. He had said he would marry her, but that she also had to have sex with his friends. She believed him and allowed other men to sleep with her. After a while he told her that he could not marry her because his mother would not allow it. She was very badly affected by this. Another boy visited the family and asked to marry her. Her stepmother forced her to marry him against her will. After 15 days together, she ran away and surrendered herself to the police. The police contacted UNICEF's implementing partners, Heartland Alliance (HAI) and STEP. The girl's husband informed the police that she had cheated on him and she was therefore arrested on charges of adultery and her father pressed charges for running away. HAI and STEP were able to meet with her father, husband and stepmother and facilitated the dropping of all charges against her. She was transferred from a detention centre to a shelter. After a while, she was taken into the custody of her uncle (mother's brother) who treated her very well. But because of the instability of her mental state, she tried to commit suicide. After this incident her uncle decided that he could no longer take responsibility for her and she therefore moved in with her aunt, but had to leave as her aunt decided she could not look after her either. Since this she has moved back to a government shelter and is in an awful (emotionally) situation.

Capacity building

UNICEF supported Salahaddin University, Erbil to develop a University degree programme on social work, operational since 2009. The first 29 students graduated at the end of June 2012. UNICEF and UNDP are seeking the possibility of deploying these graduates in FPU's in the Kurdistan region. UNICEF is also supporting the University in evaluating its current degree programme on social work to understand gaps, strengths, challenges, and recommendations for improvement. The evaluation outcomes are expected to advocate the Government to sustain these programme in the long term, and to establish the programme in other universities in Iraq.

UNICEF entered a new Programme Cooperation Agreement with the International Bureau for Children's Rights to support the KRG MoI in developing a child rights module. The workshop launching the project and setting up a Steering Committee and a Reference Group will be scheduled for August 2013.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the grave violations of children's rights

According to UNAMI, this reporting period represents the highest death toll recorded since 2008. MRM Country Task Force (co-chaired by UNICEF and UNAMI) reported 47 incidents (the verification process is still underway at the time of reporting). A total number of 100 children were killed/maimed of which 82 were boys, 16 were girls and 2 with unconfirmed gender. Most of these incidents were claimed by AQ-I. No GBV related cases were reported.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, has concluded a visit to Iraq as part of the regional visit to provide the Special Representative the opportunity to see, first-hand, the impact of the Syrian conflict on children living in Syria and in the region. UNICEF and UNAMI hosted her visit and accompanied her meetings with the key government officials in Baghdad and Erbil, including Domiz camp.

Violence Against Children

The government requested to re-conduct the Violence Against Children study which was carried out in partnership with Save the Children in 2010/11 in order to improve the quality of the current study. UNICEF is negotiating the way forward with the government.

UNICEF is advocating the Government of Iraq to demonstrate its commitment to the protection of children from violence. The Prime Minister's Office called for a meeting to discuss this issue with various ministries; however, the meeting has been re-scheduled for a number of times. The tentative date for this meeting is now at the beginning of September. The objective of this initiative is to establish an inter-ministerial committee that leads on this issue.